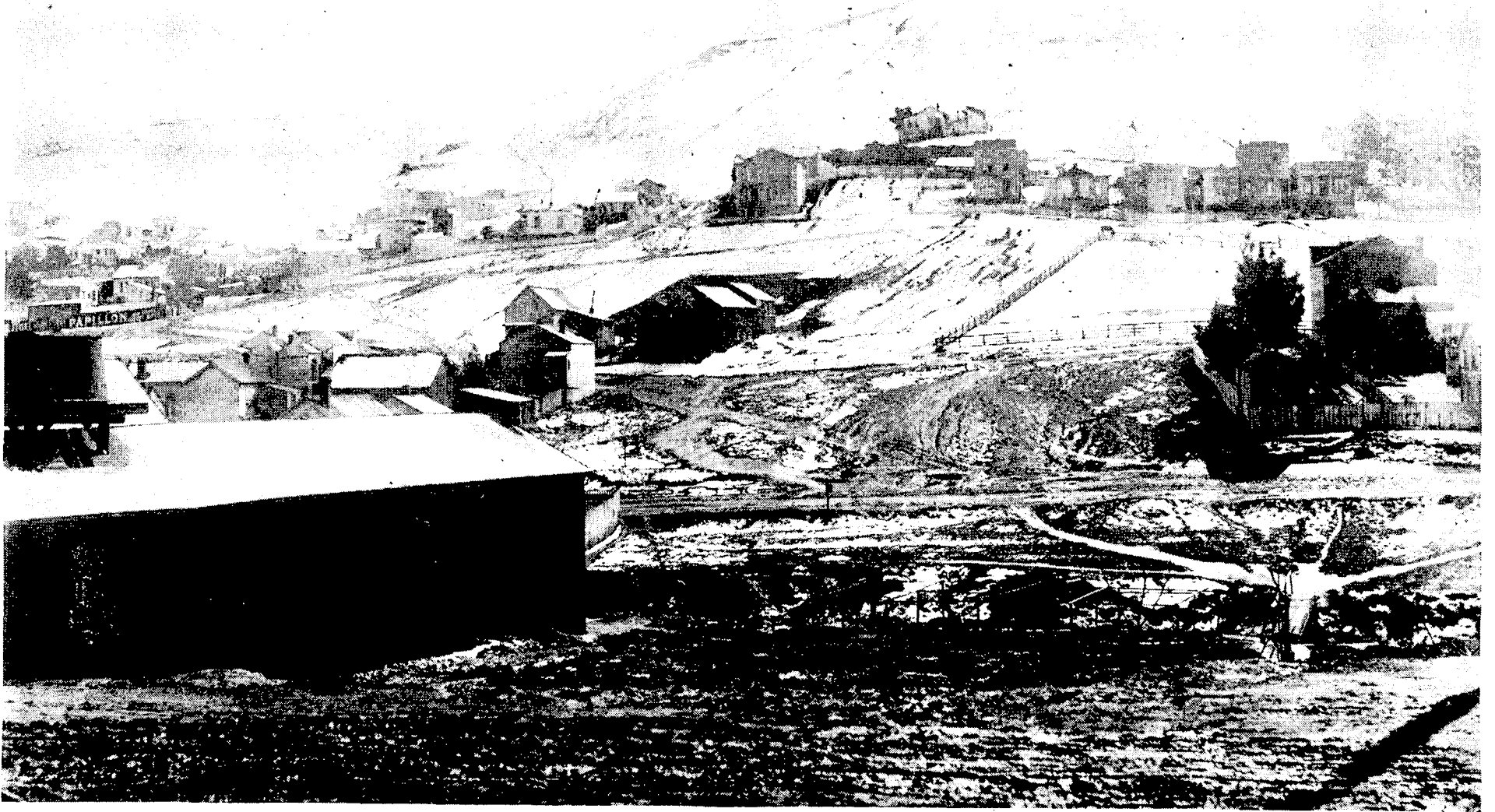


# Bernal Journal

DECEMBER ISSUE VOL 13 No 6



## WHAT DISTRICT ELECTIONS MEAN

By  
Phil Johnson

On Nov. 2 Proposition "T" was passed by the voters. San Francisco will have Supervisors elected by district for the first time since the city charter was changed in the 1930's.

Bernal Heights voted heavily in favor of the district plan, with 72% of the neighborhood voting yes on Prop. T.

The district plan becomes a reality in the next city election in 1977. The new plan signals a shift of power in the city away from the

downtown interests to the neighborhoods. Bernal Heights stands to be in a better position from the shift in power.

Opposition to "T" was centered in the incumbent Board of Supervisors, the Chamber of Commerce, the downtown interests and the wealthier neighborhoods of the city; run-

(Continued on back page)

## COMMUNITY CENTER

By  
M. Tway Smith

The task force committee of the Bernal Heights Community Center took several steps towards asking the city of San Francisco to release funds for construction of a center in Bernal Heights.

The committee, chaired by Sally Green, voted to split into two groups for December. One group is working on the design of the center. The second group is working on month-to-month funding and the services to be located at the center complex.

This action came in the wake of

SNOW FALLS ON BERNAL HEIGHTS

DECEMBER 31, 1882

(Photo marked "December". S.F. Weather Bureau furnished the date.)


This picture was taken from 26th Street between South Van Ness and Capp Streets. In those days the bay washed into Army Street all the way to Mission where in the winter a deep lake formed (a worry to many a mother as here the Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finns moored their rafts - rafting being an after-school and Saturday sport.) (See back page.)

two attempts by the Board of Supervisors to allocate various Community Development Funds to the police (Continued on page 2)

from  
THE BERNAL FUND  
500 Cortland Avenue  
San Francisco 94110

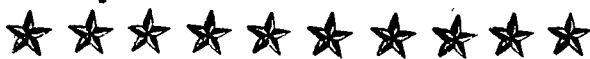
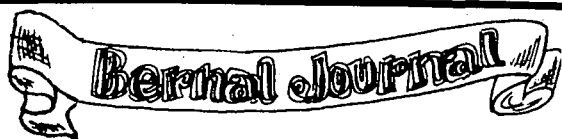
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To:



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The Bernal Journal is an open forum of the community sponsored by the Bernal Heights Association and the Bernal Fund. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with neighborhood news, ideas, issues, people, and things to do.

An editorial board will meet Jan. 10, Mon., 8 p.m., 307 Cortland. All interested persons are invited. Those who come to the meeting and contribute to the paper make the editorial decisions. The paper is non-profit and all work is voluntary.

**WORKERS THIS ISSUE:** Greg Catani, Phil Johnson, Ann Lacy, Pat Marston, Sandy Gill, Jerry Schwartz, Fred Johnson, Pat Helton, Kerry Carlton.



#### WANTED: WORKERS

How about making a New Year's resolution to put more energy into your neighborhood, positively? The rewards are working with your neighbors and helping your neighborhood. Look over the list below and don't hesitate.

**BERNAL JOURNAL.** Call Greg or Phil, 826-0842.

**Advertising Sales.** Get 10% of the advertising sold for your trouble.

**Poets and Writers.** Looking for poetry and fiction. Get published.

**Distribution.** Someone to coordinate our distribution. Expenses and a little money.

**Artists.** Photos, graphics wanted. Paid with by-lines.

**Typists.** Small amounts of money available for typing, paste-up.

**Reporters.** If something is happening near you that everyone should know about, send it in. Phil or Greg, 1619 York Street. 94110.

## COMMUNITY CENTER

and fire departments. Mayor George Moscone vetoed both measures and the Board sustained the vetoes.

Five Supervisors voted to sustain the first veto - Bob Mendelsohn, Ron Pelosi, Diane Feinstein, Bob Gonzalez and John Molinari. The second veto was sustained by six supervisors -- with Al Nelder adding his vote.

Among the community funds being raided were funds committed to building five community centers, including one in Bernal Heights. M. Tway Smith, who aided the effort to sustain the mayor's vetoes, stated at the committee meeting that it was time to work up a package, which could be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

While there was general agreement on this point, the costs of running the center once it is built proved to be a stumbling block.

The site and design group will look at several sites on or near Cortland Avenue which are available and then work up a general outline of what needs to be in the center, the various kinds of access and of the advantages and disadvantages of each site.

The committee agreed that the center should be on or near Cortland and be accessible to public transit easily.

The services and funding group will look at those groups which have expressed an interest in joining the center and contact other groups. They will also work up a monthly budget of how much it will cost to keep the center open.

Roger Jeanson is coordinating the site and design committee, while Nancy Walker is coordinating the funding group. For information call: Roger (285-1184) or Nancy (285-3188).

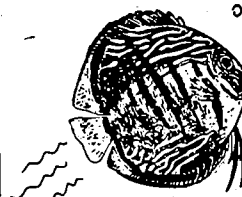
The two groups will meet on Jan. 3, 1977 at 8 p.m. at 307 Cortland Ave. to combine the plans and unify them for presentation to the community and to the Board of Supervisors. A community meeting is scheduled for some time in January or February.

The Bernal Heights Community Center committee was set up last March by the Bernal Heights Association.

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& ARMY**

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and get acquainted

Many items on special for  
our Grand Opening—  
Bring this ad to receive  
your free gift.

# Como Fights Taxes

BY  
Shawnee Power

COMO (the Congress of Outer Mission Organizations) has started a major campaign to hold the line on property taxes. Taxes have skyrocketed in the past several years in San Francisco. Many old-timers to sell their homes and leave the city. Senior citizens are literally taxed out of their homes.

At a Senate at St. Kevins on Nov. 17. COMO released a study which indicated that the assessments of 150 properties decreased, stagnated or increased less than 10% since 1970.

The majority of these buildings are highrises with multi-million dollar assessments. For example, Equitable Life Insurance had its assessment drop from 4.3 million dollars to 4 million dollar. At the same time there has been a 25% increase in the assessment of the average house in the Outer Mission.

COMO is demanding that tax assessor Joseph Tinney raise the assessment of downtown businesses in order that tax bills of Bernal residents and homeowners throughout the city to remain stable.

COMO has presented Tinney with a list of the underassessed commercial properties. The demand... REASSESSMENT OF DOWNTOWN! COMO will be at the assessor's office on Dec. 2 for his response. For information on the meeting call COMO at 648-5605.

# BERNAL HEIGHTS

## BERNAL HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS SOON TO BE HELD

With a new year starting soon, let's look at what might happen to our neighborhood in the next year. Then, if you like the projection, you may want to participate in some way. All constructive energy is welcomed by all the people who have been working during the past year.

Our purpose is to strive for a good quality of life in Bernal Heights. Our goals are to establish committees in relation to a master plan for the neighborhood, establish a communications network throughout the neighborhood, and form a working coalition of all the groups in Bernal Heights. If you believe in the purpose and goals, then please join us by signing a membership pledge. Then send us money, from \$2 on up (everything after \$2 is tax deductible to the Bernal Fund, our umbrella organization) Or, if you don't have money,

sign a work pledge. We need money; but we are mainly interested in your signifying agreement with our purpose and goals.

If you do believe in the purpose and goals, you are a voting member and as such can be elected to the Executive Board. We will be electing a President, Vice President, Neighborhood Coordinator, City Coordinator, Recording Secretary, Membership Fund Raising, and Treasurer.

Also as a member, you can bring your problems to the meetings, form needed committees, and the Bernal Journal and Bernal Notes will be delivered to your home.

So, what's been happening?

(Cont. on pg. 4)

Apreda Ingles con un maestro Latino.  
\$5 la hora. Ramon. 824-5091

Going to Mallorca? Want to read Lorca? Spanish taught by Spaniard. Bread or barter. Ramon. 824-5091.

## Grant for Recycling Center

The Winfield-Elsie-Bocana-Eugenia- Virginia Block Club has been recommended for a fifth place, \$2500 Neighborhood Bicentennial Award. The recommendation was formally presented to Mayor Moscone on Nov. 18 by the Awards and Eligibility Committee of the Neighborhood Bicentennial Celebration. The mayor is to submit his recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

The block club won this recommendation for submitting two projects: A proposed recycling center to draw primarily from Bernal Heights and Southeastern San Francisco; and a tree planting project which took place last summer, adding 12 new trees to the Block Club area.

With the award money, the block club should be able to get a recycling center going. If anyone is interested in working to see this happen, call Ruth Nomura at 648-6646 or Christine at 282-3320.

### PORSCHE

'65 SC Coupe, polo red, tan interior. New: body work & paint, carbs, clutch, brakes, wheel bearings, steering wheel. Ansa Minilites. Over \$2500 invested—car needs cosmetics—extra parts.

Must sell; we're buying a house. \$5500 or best offer. Phone Gary, Sundays only

647-0518

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94110

TELEPHONE:  
282-0683

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(CORNER OF ALABAMA)

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for 53 years

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648-3239

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You can save 20%—30%  
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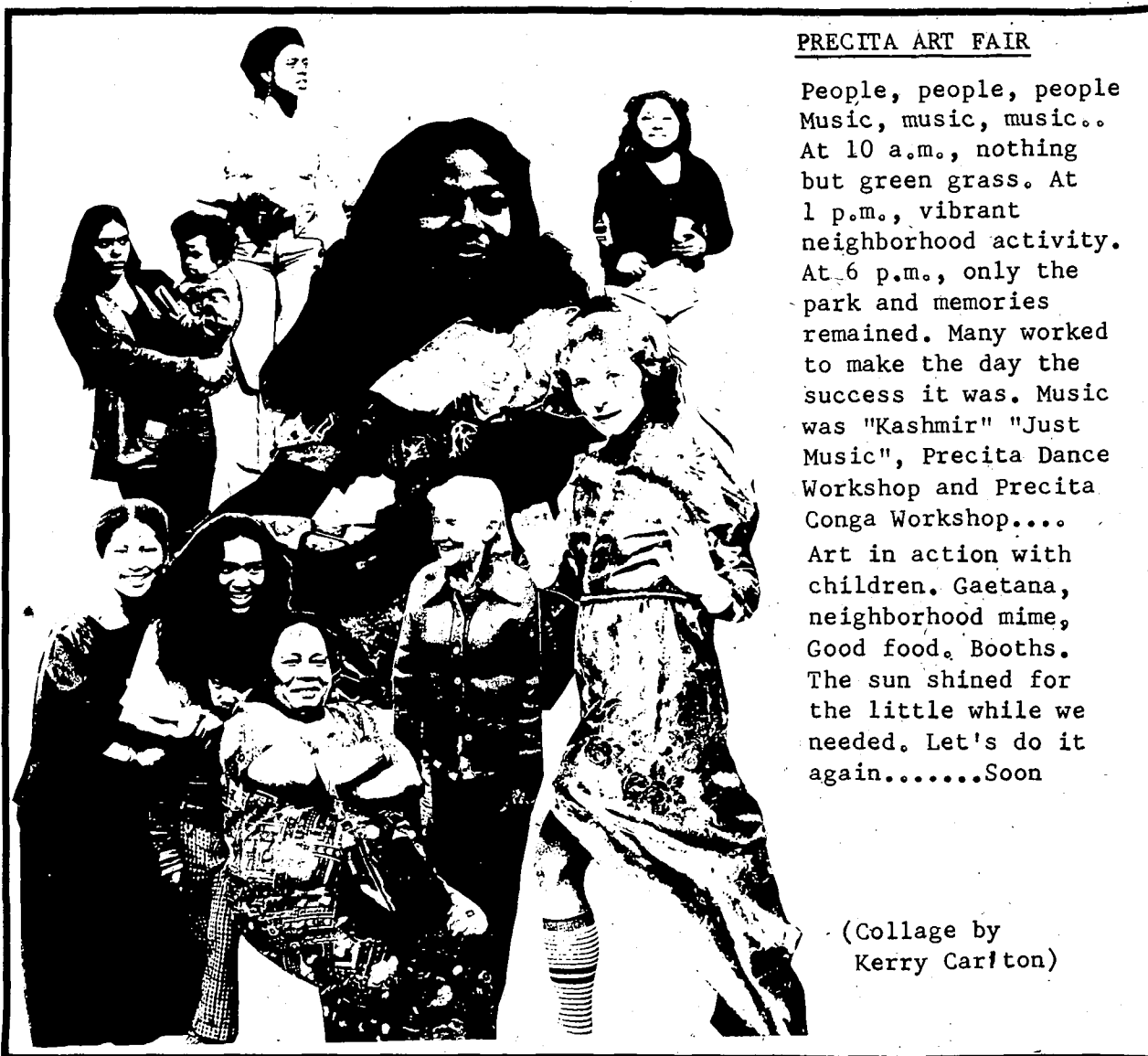


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OFF!

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421 Cortland Avenue  
(SALE LASTS THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST)



#### PRECITA ART FAIR

People, people, people  
Music, music, music..  
At 10 a.m., nothing  
but green grass. At  
1 p.m., vibrant  
neighborhood activity.  
At 6 p.m., only the  
park and memories  
remained. Many worked  
to make the day the  
success it was. Music  
was "Kashmir" "Just  
Music", Precita Dance  
Workshop and Precita  
Conga Workshop....  
Art in action with  
children. Gaetana,  
neighborhood mime,  
Good food. Booths.  
The sun shined for  
the little while we  
needed. Let's do it  
again.....Soon

(Collage by  
Kerry Carlton)

#### BERNAL HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Some very interesting things.  
But we need some coordinators. A  
coordinator's job is to arrange  
meetings and keep important mat-  
erials together. Can you do that?  
If so, please call Pat, 647-3665.

Social. We have a very nice  
potluck Oct. 16...good food,  
politicians, Geri Hijab danced for  
us and Karen Caldwell (Gaetana) did  
some mime. (Gaetana will be at the  
24th St/ Mission Bart Station every  
Sunday until Christmas 2-5 p.m.  
Check it out.) We hope to have  
another potluck along with a  
general neighborhood get-acquain-  
ted meeting in February.

The plans for the get-together  
and pland for the election will be  
made at our next meeting..JANUARY 12  
8 p.m., 307 Cortland. Please come.

Masterplan. Plans are in the  
making for a masterplan for Bernal  
Heights so we can have a goal to  
set our minds to accomplish. A start  
has been made already. About nine  
years ago a plan for physical im-  
provements in the neighborhood was  
written by the City planning under  
the eye of Richard Gamble...so we  
have that as a starter. Additionally  
Mike Corbin has started work on  
a landscaping plan for our neighbor-  
hood. He is a CETA gardener working  
presently in Potrero Hill. He would  
like to work in our area since he  
lives here. He feels we might be  
able to get free shrubs native to  
our area and also some free help  
from the Conservation Corp which is  
a place for young people to work who

are suffering from our economic  
depression.

Childcare. Childcare for working  
parents is almost non-existant in  
Bernal Heights. A committee is  
trying to relate this need to our  
half-promised Community Center.

Presently we are collecting  
statistics. If you have tried, and  
failed, to find adequate childcare  
within your ability to pay, or if  
you are willing to give some energy  
to this committee, call Claudia Viek,  
552-0963 or 824-5228 or contact this  
newspaper.

Community Center Committee  
meetings are the first and third  
Mondays, 8 p.m., 307 Cortland.  
Sally Green. 824-1576.

Newspaper Committee. Jan. 10.  
Deadline Jan. 15. Greg or Phil  
826-0842.

Arts & Trades Council. First  
Tuesday. 416 Cortland Jan. 4  
Susan Cervantes 285-2287

Police Committee. We had  
a v. good meeting Oct. 27.  
A good mix of people was there  
and some interesting problems  
came up. But we need a coordina-  
tor. How about you?

Pat Helton...647-3665

RAFFLE WINNERS: 082030,  
082102, 082009, 082073,  
082100, 082092, 082208  
Call Pat, 647-3665.



Yes, I want to join the B.H.A.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$2. \_\_\_\_\_ more \_\_\_\_\_ work pledge

## Consumer Action

#### WANTED: DISSATISFIED CONSUMERS

Consumers are paying for de-  
fective products and poor services  
to the tune of \$600 million a year  
in California, according to Attorney  
General Evell Younber. More often  
than not, they tuck their loss away  
in the corner of their mind with-  
other bad memories and do nothing.

But others are angry or frus-  
trated to the point of action.  
These people find their way to  
Consumer Actions Complaint Resolution  
Committees.

There is a need for another  
committee in San Francisco to reach  
consumers in the outer Mission  
area. Consumer action is hoping to  
establish this committee in  
Bernal Heights.

If you have a consumer complaint  
or are interested in working with  
this committee when it begins, call  
Consumer Action at 626-2510 (The  
grievance switchboard is open from  
11 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through  
Friday.)

Diana Fischer

## Brothers & Sisters United's Corner

#### BROTHERS & SISTERS UNITED

We need your help with the  
pre-school program. Please call  
282-5899 or 285-8915 if you want  
to work with us.

#### ST. KEVINS

704 Cortland 648-5751

#### Tutorial Arts Program.....

Homework Help  
Math & Reading Games  
Individual Helpers  
Fun Games after Work  
3:30-5 p.m. Mon.Tu.Wed.Th.  
Old Hall, Ellsworth & Jarboe

Work Co-Op. St. Kevins Youth is  
organizing a work co-op to offer  
skills and services to babysit,  
tutor, clean yards, garden, paint,  
housework, carpentry...and more.  
Fees are nominal and sliding.  
Call Antoinette Malveauz 285-5049

#### NEW PARK

Mayor Moscone announced at a  
recent press conference that the  
6 acre piece of land at Potrero and  
Army Streets has been purchased by  
the city to be made into a park,  
capping a campaign by the Farm for  
the additional open space.

The land was purchased for \$700,  
000 from funds set aside for open  
space in the city by the voters  
from an iniative on the ballot two  
years ago.

The mayor said that the new park  
was the first major example of open  
space reclamation in a city. The  
Farm was the prime mover behind this  
particular space being turned into  
park land.

## BERNAL HEIGHTS ART OPENINGS

by  
Karl Ardo

The long established Nanny Goat Hill Gallery held the opening of its second annual Christmas show on Friday, December 3 in conjunction with space time rhymes, a newcomer to the Bernal Heights art community. The enthusiasm, as seen by the large turnout and the positive responses to the concept of this joint effort was extremely encouraging.

Nanny Goat Hill, now run as a cooperative gallery, has been a mainstay of the Bernal Heights Community since the late sixties. This year's Christmas show is sleek in its multimedia presentation of nine area artists. Paintings, presented by Michael Lipsey, Guy Colwell, Karl Ardo, and Jim Lind, and photographs, presented by Greg DeLory, Walter Kennedy, and Mark Green, make up the bulk of the show. Joe Cardella displays vacuum-formed pieces, and Nancy Steele contributes color xerography. The feeling in the space is that of a traditional gallery, given meaning by the art on its walls. The high quality of the art contributes to the mood in the gallery.

space time rhymes is a combination studio/exhibiting space conceived by Greg Forsyth. The warm, home-like atmosphere is enhanced by the art that is displayed. Susan Cervantes and Gwen Theole exhibit paintings and Richard Schroeder and Omer Wilson contribute lithographs. Ceramics are represented by pieces from Ann Lacy and Perry Bard. Julie Hall exhibits drawings and woodblock prints and Carrie Carlton contributes photo collages. Larry Cannon's redwood furniture and Greg Forsyth's hanging constructions help maintain the warm, artistic atmosphere, as does John Reamer's sculpture and Lori Frances' masks.

The Nanny Goat Hill is located at 3205 Folsom Street and space time rhymes is across the street at 3240 Folsom. The shows are open weekends through December 19 from noon to 5 p.m. This is a fine exhibition by Bernal Heights Artists and a show that should not be missed.



### STORYTELLERS WANTED

Facts, fiction, fantasies and folklore concerning Bernal Heights Park. Call Bruce at 647-9564 for more information or write Bald Nob c/o B. Geduldig, 259 Andover.



# BERNAL HEIGHTS



## Events & Activities

### BERNAL HEIGHTS LIBRARY

500 Cortland 285-1744

On Tuesday January 4, three children's film programs:

11 a.m. & 2 p.m., preschool films  
"Madeline", "Ali Baba", Curious George Rides a Bike", and Hansel and Gretel"

4 p.m., older children's films  
"The Case of the Cosmic Comic" and "The Strange Story of the Frog Who Became a Prince"

December 29 7:30 p.m. Laurel and Hardy's "The Music Box" and "Leave 'em Laughing" and Charlie Chaplin's "Jitney".

January 12 7:30 "An Evening of Poetry and Music with Geoffrey Brown and David O'Meara."

Geoffrey Brown has read in this country and in Mexico and has been published in both countries. David O'Meara plays mandolin, dulcimer, acoustic bass, and African drums. When they play and sing Geoffrey's poetry together, the whales come all the way around Cape Horn to join the dance.

### POLITICAL ACTION

A new action-oriented political group has been organized. The Bernal Heights Political Collective is looking for people interested in working on several issues including: 1. The Bernal Heights Community Center 2. District 9 coalition building and 3. The implementation of district elections of supervisors. The group meets next on Jan. 9 at 326 Elsie, 7 p.m. For information contact Nancy Walker 285-3188.

DO YOU HAVE ANY NOTICES FOR THE CALENDAR? Send to Bernal Journal, 1619 York St., 94110.

### PRECITA VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

534 Precita 285-7833

#### PROGRAM

Headstart Preschool

Youth Activities

Youth Club Tuesdays 5:30 p.m.

Dance Workshop Fridays 4-6

Music & Drama Mondays 5-7

Media-Videotape

Sports-volleyball, basketball flag football, etc.

#### General Workshops

Pottery Wednesdays 7:30-9:30

Conga Drum Tuesdays 7:00-9:00

Karate Mon & Wed 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Arts & Crafts Thurs. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

### Y.M.C.A. ACTIVITIES

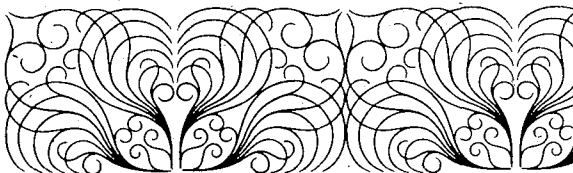
4080 Mission 586-6900

Six-12 Club. If you need somewhere for your children to go after school, and want them to be well supervised, get lots of attention, take trips around the city, work with Arts and Crafts, swim, play games, and participate in sports, we have just the thing. The six-12 club meets every Mon-Wed-Fri from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The price is only \$30 per year for one child and \$50 per year for two or more children. Price includes YMCA membership, good for discounts on other "Y" Programs and Special Trips.

A Christmas Adventure Day Camp for 6-12 year old boys and girls will run Mon through Thurs Dec. 20-23 and Dec. 27-30 from 10-4 p.m. Activities will include skating, swimming, arts and crafts and other field trips.

Swimming Lessons will be given during Christmas Vacation.

Try outs to determine swimming level will be Dec. 18 9:30 a.m.



### BUMPS

The bumps and double line on Bernal Heights Blvd. were requested by the Upper Ellsworth residents and installed after a hearing at City Hall.

A recent meeting, at the request of objectors to bumps, was held at St. Kevins and as a result ballots were sent to residents of Anderson, Ellsworth, Powhatton and Eugenia Streets.

Ballots allowed several alternative choices. A decision will be made known in the near future.

Fred Strickland

## Mural Needs Funds

Your income tax will be lower this year if you donate a little money to a work of art.

The community artists working on the LeConte School mural are faced with extra charges for the scaffolding of the project. They would appreciate any assistance you can render.

The mural is a non-profit activity, so any donation is tax deductible. Send any amount to the LeConte School mural project, c/o Gil Rankin, Principal, 3125 Army St. Checks should be made out to Susan Cervantes, co-ordinator of the project.

The mural, which is nearly completed, is located on the facade of the school facing Precita Park.



# Senior Citizens— Check This:

By  
Maureen Lamb

What can senior citizens do to continue to be interested in life around them; to continue to be inquisitive, to grow? Isn't it the relationships with people, seeing new places and participating in new activities.

The best part of retirement is having more free time, planning a new daily schedule, not having to rush and enjoying it all the way.

There are many things to do for little expense. Some of the best things in life are free. Have you ever seen a sunset from Sutro Park or the Cliff House lately and seen the surf roll onto the beach? Have you taken a Bart trip, the Golden Gate Bus or the new ferry to Sausalito, or gone to the Point Reyes

Ranger Station? Seniors with ID card travel at reduced rates.

Would you like to go through the Haas Lilienthal House, containing late 19th century antiques, or John Muir's furnished home in Martinez?

At the U.S. Forest Ranger Station you can get a free admission card to all U.S. National Parks with a senior ID.

Community College has furnished teachers of many handicrafts, group singing, folk dancing, health exercises, gift-making, painting and other things. You furnish the materials; the instruction is free.

Many of you could be leaders and teach others how to make things or lead discovery trips.

A central location on Bernal Hill could be a reality for children and adults of all ages. We can state our needs and goals and then step by step work to achieve them. Let's start planning, thinking now for a positive, enjoyable, growing future for all of us. It can happen. It depends on you.

# Mini-park for Block Club

By  
Shawnee Power

San Francisco Neighborhood Bicentennial Committee has announced that the Nevada-Putnam Block Club has been awarded \$8,000 in recognition of its efforts in planning a mini-park for the neighborhood.

Under the terms of the award, the block club will designate how the money will be spent on capital improvements in the neighborhood.

The winning entry included the entire planning process for the park, which is to be located on Jarboe Street between Bradford and Bronte Street.

Block club members met to consider the design elements of the park and circulated petitions for supporters to sign. Over 100 individuals have signed.

Design plans were drafted by club member, Greg Roja, a professional architect and submitted to the community at a neighborhood meeting at the park site on October 24th. Over 75 people attended the meeting and many signed up to participate on one or more of the committees that were formed to assist in the actual building and maintenance of the park.

Shawnee Power is the overall co-ordinator of the project. Anyone interested in helping Please call COMO at 648-5605.

## NEW PLANTING AT HOLLY PARK!

Last June we returned from vacation to find that the shrubs in one of the plantings at Holly Park had been cut off at ground level. Phone inquiries to Rec/Park yielded the information that this was early pruning. When there was little or no growth after several months, the stumps were cut back further and buried. We wrote an irate letter, contrasting the death of the severely pruned shrubs with the flourishing plantings tended by the Water Department at the reservoir. Rec/Park replied that the plantings were old anyway and would be replaced during the scheduled winter replanting at Holly Park.

Lo and behold, there has been winter planting! Not only have new bushes been planted to replace last summer's "unsuccessful pruning" but shrubs have been put in to replace those removed as long as ten years ago! They have even been watered. It is with hope and wonder we watch the fate of these new plants.

Carl & Mimi Mueller

## THANKS

TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS  
whose generous donations help to pay  
for the printing of this  
neighborhood newsletter

## Como Happenings

C.O.M.O. fundraising efforts were handsomely rewarded on Nov. 16 with the success of their first all neighborhood event, an enchilada dinner. As the labor and supplies were almost all donated by local merchants and residents, most of the money earned, a total of \$1600, will be used to continue C.O.M.O.'s existence in the community.

Over 600 persons attended the two and a half hour event. Music was provided by a local group, the Filipino-American Senior Citizens Band. There was also a raffle with prizes donated by the local merchants. More neighborhood fundraisers are in the planning stages.

### DISERNIA'S PHARMACY

Monday-Saturday 9 am-10:30 pm  
Open Sundays 11 am-10 pm  
3149 MISSION PHONE 824-4044

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we've ever offered. 48 colors as low as \$5.99  
Save 30% to 40%.

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phone 826-1830

SAVE \$



### LAS PLANTAS

EXPERT ADVISORS ON EXOTIC PLANTS, SUPPLIES, CACTI, POTTING  
22 Twenty-ninth Street near Mission O TELEPHONE 285-9958

### APPLEGATE STUDIO

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# Bernal Heights

## Natural History

BY BARBARA M. PITSCHER

The hilltop is always interesting at this time of year ("early winter"), but I find it especially exciting this year after (and, hopefully, at the end of) our drought. This month, instead of describing only one species, I shall endeavor to sketch a general picture of "winter" on the hill.

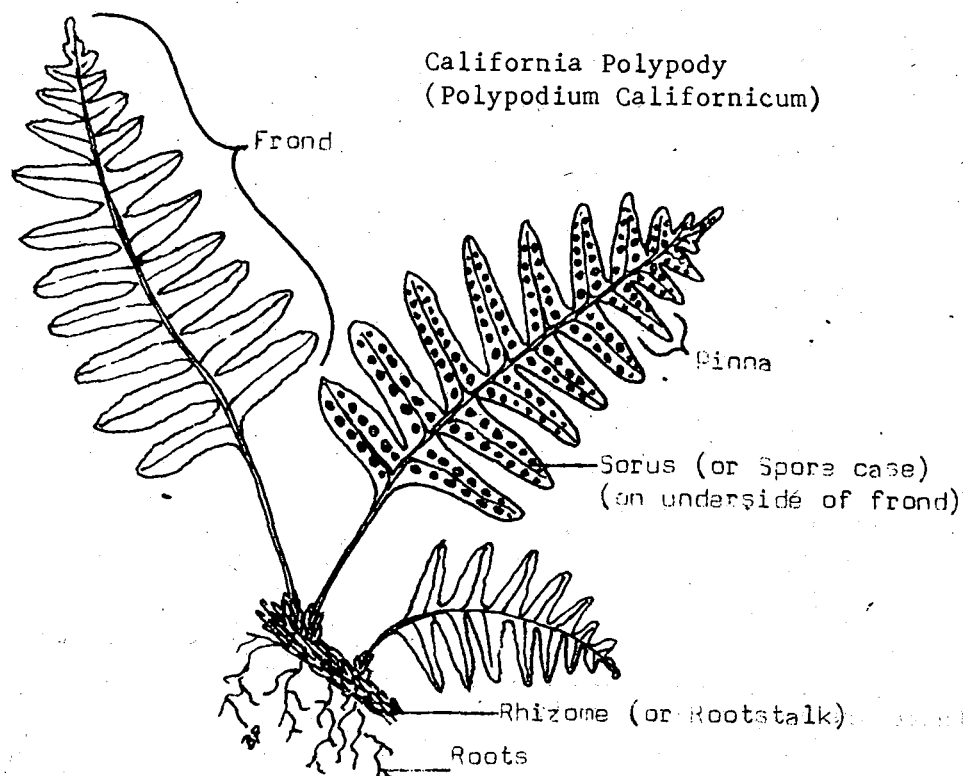
On the day after the very first rainfall in late September, the dependable Meadowlarks arrived. As usual, they will stay with us until spring fever lures them to an unknown (to me) breeding ground, where others (unfortunately for us) will enjoy the mating song for which these birds are justly famous.

Normally, we do not begin to see spring wildflowers until early January. This year, however, a few Yellow Mats are already showing tentative blooms in November! This is Footsteps of Spring, Sanicula Arctopoides, of which I wrote last year. (Arctopoides describes the leaf as "like a bear's paw" and the flower is yellow and close to the ground--"yellow mats".) Perhaps some of last year's seeds, which were deprived by the drought of timely germination, have taken advantage of some rain to sprout ahead of their season.

Another unusual phenomenon is the appearance of fresh Wild Buckwheat flowers at this time of year. Eriogonum Latifolium, a member of the Buckwheat Family of Polygonaceae, normally does not appear until late spring or early summer. Apparently those now blooming received enough of a charge from the early rains to greatly extend last summer's flowering season. These plants have a cluster of basal leaves, the undersides of which are gray and woolly. The naked stem grows (in the soil of our hill) to a height of a foot or less. The flower heads (involucres) are comprised of clusters of tiny pink and white blossoms which form a tight fuzzy ball.

The blue foliage of California Poppy (Eschscholtzie Californica) already abounds, leading me to speculate that, if our much-needed rains continue to come, this will be a great Poppy year.

And the ferns....!! One would not think of our hill as a ferny place, but at this time of year, especially on the northwest slope, California Polypody (Polypodium Californicum) is abundant.



I have also, on occasion, seen Gold Fern (Gymnogramma Triangularis) growing along the lowest path on the north side. This fern derives its name from the fact that its underside is entirely covered with a waxy golden powder, which can be rubbed or shaken off. "Triangularis" refers to the fern's shape.

Later in the spring, we may even discover Western Swordfern (Polystichum Munitum), that denizen of redwood forests, along the rocky west slopes. Our specimens are considerably smaller than their two to five foot forest brothers, but each pinna still bears a close resemblance to a miniature sword (or "munitum").

If you have observed the growth of a mushroom, you will notice that they "march to a different drummer."

They grow so fast, you can almost watch them growing; as if you had the benefit of time-lapse photography. Consequently, mushroom season on our hill is very short. But we do have mushrooms and they are growing now. It is not within my capabilities to identify them. Is there a mycologist in the neighborhood who could give us additional information?

Although the plants I describe may be seen in many areas, the largest concentration is usually on the west and northwest sides, as these areas are most dependent on natural San Francisco weather and soil conditions.



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## DISTRICT ELECTIONS

mors persists from these quarters of a serious movement to overturn "T" will material.

A coalition of Neighborhood agencies, citizen action groups, liberal politicians and in the end the voters got "T" on the ballot and passed.

The opponents of "T" have continued to raise the specter of "Chicago style ward politics" developing in the city. The resulting political trade-offs and patronage, they argue, will mean higher taxes, fewer services, and a Board beholden to separate districts, rather than the city as a whole.

Nancy Walker, Treasurer of San Franciscans for District Elections (SFDE), said that the charge of ward politics developing in San Francisco is "garbage".

"Chicago ward politics is based on patronage - giving people jobs. In San Francisco, most city jobs are covered under Civil Service," she said, pointing out supervisors would not have a lot of jobs to hand out.

One incumbent supervisor lives in District 9, which contains most of Bernal Heights. Sup. Al Nelder opposed district elections from the outset. Nelder felt supervisors should represent the whole city rather than a district.

Nelder said the district plan

will increase log-rolling and trade offs on the Board, using community development funding as an example.

"If one district wants a center, another district might want something else. The first district would have to go along with the trade-off.

(Editor's note: Bernal Heights is a high priority area slated for a community center. An article on the center appears in this issue.)

Walker acknowledged the potential for trade-offs in the district plan, but underlined the need for coalition building on the Board and in the neighborhoods.

"The district plan puts a greater responsibility on the voters. They have to be aware of what they are doing," Walker said.

The opponents of "T" have said district elections will concentrate more power in the hands of the mayor. The mayor's press aide, Corey Busch, demurred from this argument.

"District elections will provide good representative government. The mayor feels the electorate is the best guard against ward politics. San Franciscans have elected good supervisors in the past. Why would they elect 11 flunkies now."

One aspect of district elections relates directly to Bernal Heights. The northern border of District 9 is Peralta St. up Mullen St. to Bernal Heights, then down Bessie St. to Mission. Army St. to Mission is the geographic boundary for north Bernal area.

More than 500 citizens met last spring to write the charter amendment and determine the district borders, after a series of public meetings in many areas of the city. The northern border of District 9 was a political football in determining boundaries.

Walker said that political groups from the Mission (District 6) wanted the boundary to be Cortland because of a large concentration of Latino voters in North Bernal. The Peralta

to Bessie St. line was the ultimate compromise. Various groups from the hill lobbied for the Army St. line, but their efforts were blunted by the better organized Mission groups.

The boundaries will be readjusted after the 1980 census.

At this time, no candidate has filed in District 9. Sup. Nelder said he was unsure whether he would run for re-election, but would assess the situation at a later date.

Walker, who resides in Bernal Heights, stated flatly that none of the prime movers behind "T" is interested in running for supervisor.



## BERNAL

There were several tanneries on Army Street, but the name of the one shown is not known. (It was not Poetsch and Peterson which was replaced by the housing project.) Note the drying frames for skins. The roadway in front of the tannery is elevated and would be Army Street; the street above the windmill would be Precita. The houses above Precita front Mirabel and two are lovingly preserved (one at the corner of Shotwell and another several houses away toward Mission has its pillars well intact.) One of the houses in this picture fronting Shotwell is still recognizable. And who could forget the Frenchman's house (he was the culprit who started a Gold Rush to Bernal Heights. A later Bernal Journal issue will give the account by Robert O'Brien from "This is San Francisco".) The Frenchman's house has recently been remodeled - large view windows (floor to beamed ceiling). The last row of houses to the left of the picture would front Ripley Street.

Thanks to Tony Marston who in the course of a day's work unearthed this great photo for us.

Lee Egger

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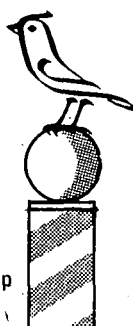
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